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SUBJ: RAFSANJANI ON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

1. NOVEMBER 5 EDITION OF AL-SAFIR (LEFTIST) QUOTES RAFSANJANI, IN HIS STATEMENTS ABOUT ALLEGED MCFARLANE VISIT, AS SAYING:

-- "WE WILL ADVISE THE GROUPS IN LEBANON LOYAL TO IRAN TO RELEASE THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH HOSTAGES IF LEBANESE PRISONERS IN ISRAEL ARE FREED AND WASHINGTON AND PARIS STOP THEIR USELESS HOSTILE ACTIONS AGAINST US. IF THE DEMANDS OF THE OPPRESSED MUSLIMS IN LEBANON ARE MET AND IF YOU PROVE THAT YOU WILL NOT BE HOSTILE, OR BEHAVE ANTAGONISTICALLY, WE WILL INFORM OUR FRIENDS IN LEBANON ABOUT OUR OPINIONS, FROM A HUMANITARIAN VIEW. THE FATE OF SOME OF THE HOSTAGES IS IN THE HANDS OF ISLAMIC GROUPS AND SOME OF THE ISLAMIC FORCES DO LISTEN TO US...IF IRAN SHOULD CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES, OUR FRIENDS IN LEBANON ARE FREE TO RESPOND OR NOT. THEY LISTEN TO US SOMETIMES."

2. COMMENT: ABOVE STATEMENT APPEARS AT CONCLUSION OF RAFSANJANI'S REPORTED REMARKS. END COMMENT.

KELLY